

METHOD FOR REMOVING VOLATILE  
COMPONENTS FROM A GEL-CAST CERAMIC  
ARTICLE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of removing substantially all of the volatile component in a green, volatile-containing ceramic article is disclosed. The method comprises freezing the ceramic article; and then subjecting the frozen article to a vacuum for a sufficient time to freeze-dry the article. Frequently, the article is heated while being freeze-dried. Use of this method efficiently reduces the propensity for any warpage of the article. The article is often formed from a ceramic slurry in a gel-casting process. A method for fabricating a ceramic core used in investment casting is also described.